

# AGRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM • ENGLISH EDITION • JANUARY 2023

JANUARY 4

## Sultan Kudarat farmers' organizations receive organic fertilizers



Six (6) agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) in the province of Sultan Kudarat received a total of 300 sacks of vermicompost and 130 gallons of organic foliar fertilizer from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to boost their agricultural production and promote a healthy way of producing foods without harming the environment.

The farm inputs, with a total cost of P247,350.00, were provided to the ARBOs in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to help improve the livelihood of the farmers.

The following ARBOs received 22 gallons each of organic foliar fertilizer and 50 sacks each of organic vermicompost: the Agrarian Reform Farmers Association in Tacurong City; the Silang Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association in Bagumbayan; the Palimbang Entrepreneurs Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries' Organization in Palimbang; and the Sitio Lagon Farmers' Multi-Purpose Cooperative in President Quirino. On the other hand, the Kangkong Farmers Association and Tagumpay Vegetable Growers Association, both located in Esperanza, each received 21

gallons and 50 sacks of organic fertilizers.

Hernane Fermo, President of the Agrarian Reform Farmers Association, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the DAR for its continuous assistance to the ARBOs.

"We appreciate the DAR's strong support, and for always remembering us, especially in times of need. These farm inputs will surely help us to produce better products that we can sell competitively in the market," Fermo said.

The agri-inputs were provided under the Sustainable and Resilient Agrarian Reform Communities

(ARCs) of the DAR which aims to promote vegetable production to combat the effect of climate change in the province.

Engr. Rushdi Mindalano, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said that he is positive that the agri-inputs will help the ARBO members successfully deal with their farming challenges for them to gain higher profits for their organizations.

"It has always been our aim to ease the problems of the farmers by helping them achieve higher farming productivity and profitability through the provision of support services," Mindalano said.

# OP LAUDS DAR FOR BEING 100 PERCENT RESPONSIVE TO ITS CLIENTS

The Office of the President has commended the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for its swift and 100-percent response and action to all 451 issues and concerns brought to its attention last year under the government's 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center.

Bernadette B. Casinabe, director of the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center, conveyed her congratulatory message in a letter addressed to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III for a job well done.

"We are pleased to inform you that of the 451 citizens' concerns referred to your office from January 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022, 451 tickets, or 100 percent were acted upon. We would like to commend your efforts in ensuring that all citizens' concerns referred to your office are acted upon on time," Casinabe said.

The 8888 Citizens' Complaint



Center was established in June 2007 to serve as a mechanism where citizens may report their complaints and grievances on acts of red tape, as defined under Republic Act (RA)

No. 9485, otherwise known as the "Anti-Red Tape Act, as amended by RA No. 11032.

It also takes action on cases of corruption against any national

government agency, government-owned or controlled corporations, government financial institutions, and other instrumentalities.

Casinabe said she is looking forward "to our continued partnership in the fight against red tape and corruption."

Estrella expressed his deep appreciation for the compliment even as he assured all the officials and staff of the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center and the public, in general, that the DAR would continue exerting and exhausting all efforts in a timely manner to address issues and concerns affecting its clientele.

"We will continue to work harder to ensure that every issue and concern raised by the people relative to the DAR's mandate will be addressed and acted upon timely and swiftly because we value people's trust and confidence," Estrella said.

# NEGROS OCCIDENTAL FARMERS TO RECEIVE 320 HECTARES OF LAND



A total of 158 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Barangay Minoyan, Murcia, Negros Occidental will soon receive a total of 320 hectares of validated agricultural lands under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project. The SPLIT Project is the subdivision of lands and the issuance of individual land titles to ARBs who were previously awarded lands under the collective

certificates of land ownership award (CCLOA).

This activity is in consonance with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III to strengthen the property rights of the ARBs nationwide.

Imelda Lazalita, Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer, said the landholdings validated were formerly managed by G.V.

and Sons Incorporated, identified by CCLOA Numbers 7433 and 7750, covering 23.2658- and 297.6255-hectares, respectively, subject for individual titling to 39 and 119 qualified ARBs.

"The activity would expedite the issuance of individual titles to the farmers, where its objective is to improve land tenure security and stabilize the property rights of ARBs occupying the CCLOAs," she said.

Lazalita added that a consultation meeting between the ARBs and the Field validation team also took place to ensure a smooth validation of lands.

"As we aim to fast-track the subdivision of land parcels and issue individual titles, we make sure that the actual validation of relevant information necessary for the re-issuance of titles to the co-owners of the land is accurate," she said.

JANUARY 13

## DAR field personnel gets motorcycle, goes full blast on SPLIT project implementation

Field personnel of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) was provided with motorcycles, under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project, for them to gain access to far-flung areas in the country to hasten the distribution of individual electronic land titles (e-titles) to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the first batch of 156 motorcycles – Honda-XR150Ls – were delivered to the following: DAR central office, 2; Cordillera Administrative Region, 25; Ilocos Region, 27; Cagayan Valley, 52; Central Luzon, 20; and Central Visayas, 30.

Estrella said the motorcycles would play a crucial role in the conduct of field validation



activities, especially in areas where access roads are less conducive for four-wheeled vehicles.

“These motorbikes will make a big difference in our efforts to expedite the subdivision of

collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) into individual land titles because there are areas, especially in the countryside, where motorbikes are the only appropriate mode of

transportation,” Estrella said.

Estrella said the logistics support is in line with the marching order of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to expedite the distribution CLOAs to the ARBs.

Engr. Joey Sumatra, DAR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations, said the 156 newly delivered motorcycles are part of the 820 units that the Department had procured at an aggregate cost of P123 million. Each motorbike costs P150,000.

Other regions expected to receive their shares of motorbikes soon include the CALABARZON, 17; MIMAROPA, 22; Bicol Region, 60; Western Visayas, 108; Eastern Visayas, 123; Zamboanga Peninsula, 65; Northern Mindanao, 60; Davao Region, 59; Soccsksargen, 88; and Caraga, 62.

JANUARY 16

## CEBU FARMERS RECEIVE AGRI LANDS



Thirty-three (33) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the province of Cebu received a total of 26.53 hectares of agricultural lands from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

The lands distributed were from the towns of Barili, comprising 12.68 hectares distributed to 11 ARBs; Badian, with 7.27 hectares to 14 ARBs; and Argao, with 6.58 hectares to eight (8) ARBs.

“We are so happy to finally receive the land titles of the properties which our elders have been tilling for many years. Thank you very much to the DAR,” said Nick Manigos, an ARB recipient from the town of Barili.

This activity is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand

Marcos Jr., to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to expedite the distribution of lands to the landless farmers.

Grace Fua, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, congratulated the farmers and reminded them of their responsibilities and obligations as they accept the lands provided to them by the government.

“Always remember that you have a responsibility to cultivate the lands given to you. The DAR will provide you with the necessary support to make your farm become productive,” she said.

Fua also encouraged the farmers to join ARB organizations as the DAR channels its various support services through these organizations.

JANUARY 17

## DAR-MIMAROPA PERSONNEL IMPROVE SKILLS TO HELP ARBS DEVELOP FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Municipal Agrarian Reform Officers (MAROs), Development Facilitators (DFs) and other implementers of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in MIMAROPA region attended a four-day training on agrarian reform community (ARC) organizing and development (ARCOD) to improve their skills in formulating workable, effective plans in developing farm communities.

DAR Regional Director Marvin Bernal said the training is designed to raise the skills of implementers not only in community organizing but also in enterprise development and management.

“This training is essential for MAROs and DFs in executing entrepreneurial activities in agrarian reform communities in Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan,” Bernal said.

Bernal said that the activity is

in response to the call made by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to improve and uplift the lives of farmers by training them to become farmer-entrepreneurs.

Participants were provided skills on modern approaches and ways to develop ARCs, preparing their development plan and formulating a one-year plan for 2023.

Bernal said the participants have committed themselves to improve

the quality of lives of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) for them to become active participants in the government’s development efforts.

The participants completed four modules which include – Enhancing Personal Effectiveness, Internalizing community development perspective, Acquiring ARC Development Skills, and Formulating the learning action plan.

# Lanao del Norte ARBs receive land titles from DAR



One hundred (100) agrarian-reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Lanao del Norte recently received electronic land titles (e-titles) and certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to support the government's thrust to emancipate the farmers from the bondage of soil.

"We are very grateful to the DAR and President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.!" Gituan Batingolo exclaimed, a resident of barangay Bubong, after finally receiving his land title. Marie Vil M. Codilla, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, said that from the total of 100 ARBs, eleven (11) ARBs received e-titles covering a total of 29.9002 hectares under Project Support to Parcelization of Land Titles (SPLIT).

The rest of the 89 ARBs received regular CLOAs covering 46.7679

hectares in barangay San Roque and 69.4880 in barangay Bubong. Codilla challenged the ARBs not to sell their awarded lands and reiterated the importance of continuously cultivating and improving their lands for the program to be successful.

"Land distribution is only an initial step of the DAR's intervention. The department will continue to provide support services and free legal assistance to develop your farming systems and product enterprise, and strengthen your ARB organizations," said Codilla. Kolambugan Municipal Mayor Allan M. Omamos emphasized the support of the local government unit for all the programs of the DAR.

"Make your lands productive, not only for your own benefit but also to secure a better future for the next generation," he said.

# DAR SUBDIVIDES 437,922 HECTARES OF LAND INTO INDIVIDUAL LOTS UNDER SPLIT PROJECT



Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III reported that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has already subdivided 437,922 hectares of agricultural lands as of December 31, 2022, which is scheduled to be distributed to the same number of qualified farmer-beneficiaries under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project.

Estrella said the SPLIT project seeks to subdivide the previously distributed 146,860 Collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs) and turn them into individual land titles.

The P24.62-billion project, funded by the World Bank and the government of the Philippines, aims to improve land tenure security and stabilize the property rights of some 1.14 million agrarian reform

beneficiaries (ARBs) covering 1.36 million hectares of land nationwide. SPLIT project is one of the priority programs of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to free the farmers from the bondage of the soil.

The Secretary noted that field implementers had gone through the difficult process of subdividing the landholdings into individual lots.

These include the CCLOA inventory and data gathering, ARB and landholding field validation, the conduct of segregation and subdivision surveys, which will lead to the generation and registration of individual CLOAs, and finally the distribution, and installation of qualified ARBs.

"Majority of the CCLOAs distributed during the 1990s have already encountered a lot of changes, in so far as the actual tillers and owners of the farmlands,

and the current size of the landholdings," Estrella stressed.

Engr. Joey Sumatra, DAR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations and SPLIT project national director said about 30 percent of the ARBs listed in CCLOAs are no longer around in the area where the landholdings are located, either by abandonment, death or their rights already sold to other individuals.

"We have to undertake field validation process through the disqualification and reallocation proceedings to determine the qualified beneficiaries," Sumatra said.

Sumatra also cited the need to settle several issues, such as overlapping issues between Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)-covered farmlands and ancestral lands of indigenous communities, land survey to determine portions

of landholdings already allocated for non-agricultural uses, and the process of generating electronic titles, among others.

Sumatra said that there is a need to segregate portions of landholdings allocated for non-agricultural uses, such as road networks and basic social facilities before determining the metes and bounds of each subdivided farm lot.

Sumatra explained that consultations and dialogues also took place between and among concerned local governments, the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, the Land Registration Authority, and the affected parties – the ARBs and the tribal communities, among others.

The SPLIT national project director expressed confidence that they would be able to deliver the task at hand in due time.

# OP commends DAR

The Office of the President (OP) has commended the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for swiftly and timely addressing all issues and concerns raised by its stakeholders and advocates.

In a letter addressed to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, Atty. Rogelio D. Peig II, Undersecretary for Strategic Action and Response, commended the DAR for acting with dispatch on all 491 issues and concerns referred to it last year under the government's 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center for a hundred-percent accomplishment rating.

"We are pleased to inform you

that of the 491 citizens' concerns referred to your office from January 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022, 491 tickets or 100 percent were acted upon. We would like to commend your efforts in ensuring that all citizens' concerns referred to your office are acted upon on time," Peig said.

The 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center was established in June 2007 to serve as a mechanism where citizens may report their complaints and grievances on acts of red tape, as defined under Republic Act (RA) No. 9485, otherwise known as the "Anti-Red Tape Act, as amended by RA No. 11032.

It also acts on cases of corruption against any national government agency, government-owned or controlled corporations, government financial institutions and other instrumentalities.

Peig said he is looking forward "to our continued partnership in the fight against red tape and corruption."

Estrella expressed his deep appreciation for the compliment even as he assured all the officials and staff of the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center and the public, in general, that the DAR would continue exerting and exhausting all efforts in a timely manner

to address issues and concerns affecting the people.

"We will continue working harder to ensure that every issue and concern raised by the people will be addressed and acted upon timely and swiftly because we value their trust and confidence," Estrella said. Atty. Jazon Collado, director of the DAR-Clientele Relations Service, the office responsible for addressing issues and concerns referred to the department said, the DAR is just doing what is expected of them.

"We are happy doing what we ought to do and, that is: 'Serve the Filipino people the best way we can,'" he said.

# DAR Chief to distribute e-titles to Eastern Visayas farmers



Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III is expected to distribute a total of 2,591 electronic titles (e-titles) to 1,839 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) comprising a total of 3,922 hectares in Eastern Visayas this Thursday, January 26, 2022, under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling or SPLIT Project of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

Estrella will distribute the first batch of individual titles generated under the SPLIT Project at the Visayas State University-Tolosa Campus auditorium.

Estrella said the SPLIT project intends to fast-track the subdivision of collective certificates of land ownership award (CCLOAs) of about 1.3 million hectares of land nationwide.

"The SPLIT project was funded by

the World Bank so that CCLOAs could be parceled and issue individual titles to the ARBs. We will release individual e-titles to protect and affirm the property rights of our ARBs," Estrella said. Estrella vowed to support the call of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to expedite the distribution of land titles to ARBs this year and provide support services to help them improve their living conditions.

Atty. Robert Anthony Yu, Eastern Visayas Regional Director, disclosed that around 17,496 CCLOAs covering a total of 220,473 hectares of agricultural lands, situated in different parts of the region, are included in the SPLIT project.

He said that 67,601 hectares have already been validated by the region, while 3,922 hectares have been issued with e-titles.

# 56 FORMER TENANTS OF 174 HAS. REYES PROPERTY IN QUEZON PROVINCE, NOW LANDOWNERS

After three (3) decades of fighting for their rights, the 56 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) became new landowners of the 174 hectares Don Domingo Reyes property located in Buenavista, Quezon as they received their individual certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

"We are very thankful to the Lord, the DAR, the local government unit, and the inter-agency task force for helping us own the lands we have been tilling for several

years," exclaimed Saturnino Alcantara, a former tenant and barangay captain, who received a portion of the Reyes property.

Alcantara said that upon owning the land, their lives became more secure where they were able to enjoy the fruits of their labor with increased income and provide education to their children.

Way back in 1994, Don Domingo Reyes Sr., former landowner of the 174-hectare agricultural land located at Brgy. Catulin, Buenavista, Quezon, ordered a halt on all farm activities including

planting and harvesting crops, raising farm animals, and copra processing.

The tenant farmers headed by Alcantara organized the Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Catulin (SAMACA) and requested the DAR to cover the Reyes property under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Don Domingo initially rejected the coverage and erected fences covering his whole property. His personnel also uprooted the crops planted by the tenants forcing the farmers to flee from the

landholding.

SAMACA, with the assistance of the PEACE Foundation, a Non-Government Organization (NGO), attended a para-legal training on agrarian reform laws under the Bondoc Development Program (BDP) to equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and formulate a plan to put an end to the incessant chaos.

Continue to page 6

Continuation from page 5

To provide the support needed by the beneficiaries, an Inter-Agency Task Force was formed together with the Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of National Defense (DND), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and other NGOs.

Soon, the former landowner gave in until the tenant farmers were finally installed, provided with

individual CLOAs, and are now peacefully cultivating the land. The new landowners are now able to build houses, buy appliances, and some of their children already graduated from tertiary education. This historical event also triggered a spark in DAR Quezon II for successfully covering other Reyes' properties in Buenavista, San Narciso, and San Andres, Quezon which covers around 2,192.5077 hectares of land that will benefit a total of 1585 ARBs.



JANUARY 26

## CEBU FARMERS RECEIVE LAND TITLES



A total of 400 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Barangay Binongkalan, Catmon, Cebu received 326 certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) covering 157.28 hectares of agricultural land from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to improve their economic lives.

The distribution of land titles is in consonance with the directive

of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr, through the leadership of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III.

Maryln Pelonio, one of the land recipients and Secretary of Asosasyon sa mga Benepisyaryo sa Programang Agraryo sa Binongkalan, expressed her gratitude to the DAR for providing them with land titles.

"We now have the full right to call these properties ours. We promise

DAR that we will take care of these lands and make them more productive," she said.

Prior to the distribution of CLOAs, the DAR officials and personnel discussed the rights and obligations of the ARBs to their properties.

Grace B. Fua, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II, who led the distribution of CLOAs attended by Catmon Mayor Aves Monleon, said the DAR is pooling all their

efforts to fast-track the issuance of the CLOAs to the landless farmers.

"Apart from helping them in making their lands productive, the DAR also reminds them from time to time of their obligations such as paying their taxes to confirm ownership over the land," she said. Mayor Monleon thanked the DAR for helping the farmers in their town to own the lands they have been dreaming of for years.

JANUARY 27

## TACLOBAN FARMERS GET P1.5-M FUNDING FROM DAR TO BUILD A GREENHOUSE

TACLOBAN CITY – Farmer-members of the San Agustin Rice Farmers and Livelihood Association (SANAG) received a P1.5 million grant from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to help and encourage them to increase their income through vegetable production.

SANAG members will establish and manage a greenhouse based on a memorandum of agreement signed between the DAR, represented by Asst. Regional Director Ismael Aya-ay and Mayor Remedios Petilla of the local government (LGU) of Palo, Leyte.

Aya-ay said the grant is taken from the Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF) for the implementation of the Sustainable and Resilient Agrarian Reform Communities (SuRe ARCs) program.

Aya-ay said that under the SuRe ARCs program, SANAG members were taught how to use greenhouse technology for their vegetable crops.

"The greenhouse facility will enable growers to plant off-season crops leading to all-year-round production. This would also translate to more productivity and higher earnings for farmers," Aya-

ay said.

Aya-ay said the SuRe ARCs program is in line with the food security program of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. It is also one of the major goals of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, to introduce modern farm technologies and provide modern farm equipment to agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Under the agreement, the LGU of Palo will lead in the implementation of the project through the engagement and procurement of goods and items.

The project will also provide

the farmers in the locality access to quality seeds and seedlings and ensure the production of improved crop varieties and better-quality of plant materials.

Petilla expressed her appreciation and thanks to DAR for choosing her municipality as the recipient of the said project.

SANAG, a DAR-assisted farmer organization within the Palo agrarian reform community, was pre-selected to be the recipient of the greenhouse to help them expand their livelihood activities and generate more income by undertaking the enterprise-based crop nursery project of SuRe ARCs.

# ESTRELLA, MARCOS DISTRIBUTE LAND TITLES TO EASTERN VISAYAS FARMERS

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III, accompanied by Senator Imee Marcos, distributed on January 26, 2023, a total of 1,047 land titles to 1,006 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from the six provinces of Eastern Visayas comprising a total of 1,571 hectares of agricultural lands in the area. Elvira Dela Pena Hallazgo, an ARB from Brgy. Gibacungan, Tabango, Leyte thanked the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and vowed to enrich the lands they received. “We sincerely thank the DAR for the land titles which have made us official owners of the land we have been tilling for so many years,” she said. She disclosed that many of the farmer-beneficiaries have been waiting for decades to get hold of the land titles issued under their names. The Senator for her part called for farm modernization to boost food production in the region. “We need to improve our mechanization program and provide our farmers with farm inputs such as fertilizers and hybrid seeds,” Marcos said.



Estrella said the DAR will continue bringing the government closer to the people and make the ARBs feel that his agency is always ready and willing to help them. “Do not sell your lands. All the support services will be provided to you by our beloved President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. Make your awarded lands productive and sustainable for you to become

self-reliant food producers of the nation,” Estrella said. Atty. Robert Anthony Yu, Eastern Visayas Regional Director said most of the individual land titles were processed under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project. He reminded the farmer-beneficiaries that they would be more secure if they will join farmer

organizations where the DAR could immediately channel various support services to improve their lands. He added that the individual titles will not only benefit the ARBs, but also the local government units where the properties are located, in terms of possible earnings from tax payments that can be collected due to the ownership of land.

# Eastern Samar farmers and residents receive P9-M Tulay ng Pangulo project

Balangiga, Eastern Samar—Farmers and residents expressed their gratitude to the national government for the completion of the Tulay ng Pangulo Para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo project in Brgy. Sta. Rosa, Balangiga, Eastern Samar. Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III, in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), led the inauguration and turnover of the bridge last Friday, January 27, 2023, to the municipal government of Balangiga, as represented by Municipal Mayor Atty. Dana Flynn De Lira. “This is a very historic moment for barangay Santa Rosa, for having the first concrete bridge through the Tulay ng Pangulo project. This event is a symbolism where the town of Balangiga can cross from the state of poverty to progress,” she said. “Cambukol Bridge” will benefit a total of 14,341 residents in the area, including the 823 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) residing in the Balangiga agrarian reform communities (ARC) composed of seven (7) barangays,



including Poblacion 1, San Miguel, Cansumangcay, Sta. Rosa, Cagolango, Guimaayohan and Baciao. “We are very happy with this project. It will surely promote rural development in the ARCs in this region. Thank you to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and DPWH,” said Danilo Abigan, Brgy. Chairman of Sta. Rosa. Abigan added that the bridge will provide the residents and ARBs

easier access to bring their farm products to the market as compared to the old bridge made only of wood materials causing some of the residents to accidentally fall into the river. Estrella said that this is another milestone on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. “Our President is fulfilling his

promise to provide support services to the ARBs. Whereas before you had difficulty in transporting your products, now you have the Tulay ng Pangulo project to ease your transportation problems,” he said. Atty. Robert Anthony P. Yu, DAR Eastern Visayas regional director, said the “Cambukol Bridge” worth P9 million has a 28.00 linear meter, 2-lanes, 1-span prefabricated modular steel technology supplied by the French Government.

# ESTRELLA PROVIDES PHP105.7 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND FMES TO UPLIFT THE LIVES OF EASTERN VISAYAS ARBOS

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III, accompanied by Senator Imee Marcos, provided a total of Php105.7-million worth of infrastructure projects and farm machinery and equipment (FME) to uplift the lives of farmer-members from the ten (10) agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) in Eastern Visayas.

Included among the FME distributed is the Sustainable and Resilient ARCs (SURE) and Major Crop-based Block Farm Productivity Enhancement Project, amounting to Php3,716,000, to the farmers of Leyte and Southern Leyte.

A check funded under the agrarian reform fund (ARF) amounting to Php100-million for the construction of farm to market roads (FMRs) and Php2-million worth under the Enhance Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP), Sustainable Livelihood Support for Disaster Affected Areas, Major Crop-based Block Farm Productivity Enhancement Project and CRFPSP were also distributed for the farmers of Eastern Samar.

Mary Ann Nofies, president of Brgy. Aksam Poultry Raiser Association, expressed her gratitude for the provision of support services, which she said



would boost the income of the ARBOs and the ARBs.

“I would like to thank God for these never-ending grace, mercy and providence which we promise to use properly to improve our

lives and income. We accept the challenge to make our lands productive by continuously tilling and cultivating it to increase our production and income,” she said. Estrella said the project reflects

the commitment of the DAR to the national goal of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to improve farmers’ lives through the provision of various support services.

“These farm implements would make farming easier and faster to improve their yield and increase their income,” he said.

Atty. Robert Anthony Yu, DAR Regional Director of Eastern Visayas said the ten (10) ARBOs are the Brgy. Agutayan Farmers Association, Hilongos Settlement in Hilongos, Leyte; Canmarating-Odiongan Pagsang-an Sulpa Irrigators Association (COPSIA) Inc. in Abuyog Settlement, Abuyog, Leyte; Himayangan Farmers Association in Himayangan, Liloan, Southern Leyte; San Gabriel Integrated Farmers Association in Borongan ARC, Borongan; Malaintos Organic Rice Farmers Association in Parik ARC, Dolores; Bangon ARB Association in Balangkayan ARC, Balangkayan; Parina AR Cooperative in Giporlos ARC, Giporlo; San Jose ARB Association in Borongan ARC, Borongan City; Seguinon Farmers Association in Salcedo ARC, Salcedo; and Brgy. Aksam Poultry Raiser Association in ESSP-Oras Side, Oras.

## CSC CITES DAR FOR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



After the Office of the President gave the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) a pat on the back, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) took its turn in commending the department for exemplary performance in resolving all transactions and complaints referred to it last year.

In a two-page congratulatory letter addressed to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, Maria Luisa Salonga-Agamata, director of the CSC-Public Assistance and Information Office, cited the DAR for resolving all 23 transactions and nine complaints elevated by the CCB (Contact Center ng Bayan) to the DAR from January 1 to December 31, 2022.

“Thank you for continuously partnering with the CCB in ensuring that all the feedback is acted upon/resolved as soon as possible. We look forward to our

continued partnership in providing efficient and effective public service,” Agamata stated in her letter.

The CCB serves as the public feedback mechanism of the CSC. It seeks to promote accountability among government agencies by providing customers with accessible channels to report feedback on government frontline services.

It was established by virtue of the Republic Act No. 9485, otherwise known as the “Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007” and CSC Resolution No. 1400995 issued in July 2014.

Estrella expressed his deep appreciation for the compliment and assured the CSC and the public, in general, that the DAR would continue exerting and exhausting all efforts in a timely manner to address issues and concerns affecting the people.

# North Cotabato sugarcane farmers' group receives hauling truck



A group of smallholder sugarcane farmers received a hauling truck worth Php800,000.00 from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to boost their farming activity and increase their income. The Kabulacan Farmers Association of Matalam, North Cotabato received the hauling truck in consonance with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to increase the livelihood production of the farmers. After its formal turnover of the farm machinery to the sugarcane

farmers' group, it is expected that the hauling demands of the 150 hectares of sugarcane plantation in Barangay Kabulacan will increase, aside from the hauling requirements of other neighboring barangays. Jenier Capindo, President of the Kabulacan Farmers Association, vowed to make the farm machinery an income-generating asset of their organization. "This truck would greatly help us in bringing our products to the milling plant on time and at a lower hauling fee," she said. Capindo added that the farm

machinery would not only serve them but also the neighboring communities, especially during the harvest and milling season. "We would like to assure the DAR that the assistance given to us will be taken care of and managed properly," she said. Aside from the hauling truck, the association was also provided with farm inputs for the demonstration farm and capability development training on climate change resiliency with a combined amount of Php64,000.00. Evangeline Bueno, Provincial

Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO) II, said the project is provided through funding support from the Major Crop-based Block Farming Project under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Program (CRFPSP) of the DAR. "The provision of the hauling truck as a common service facility is aimed to improve smallholder farmers' farm productivity and income while making them and their organization resilient to the adverse effects of climate change," she said.

